

## Who we are

The Ethanol Working Group (EWG) is a coalition of public and private organizations, universities, and state agencies interested in the promotion of ethanol in Michigan.

## Contact information

If you are interested in receiving the Michigan EWG News and/or have ethanol-related information you would like to submit for this publication, contact the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) at (517) 323-6600 or by email at [corninfo@micorn.org](mailto:corninfo@micorn.org)

Additional ethanol information is available on the CMPM website at: [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) and the Michigan Biomass Energy Program website at: [www.michiganbioenergy.org](http://www.michiganbioenergy.org)

## Purpose of the EWG

In 1999 the first DOE sponsored Ethanol Workshop was held in Lansing, Michigan. A second workshop was held in 2000. In response to the interest generated by these workshops the Michigan Ethanol Working Group (EWG) was formed in September, 2000. The EWG is a coalition of public and private organizations, universities, and state agencies working to further the ethanol industry. The three main areas of focus for the group's monthly meetings are: ethanol education, promotion, and pricing issues.

The EWG News will cover these areas along with other ethanol updates. If you have ethanol-related information to report, we encourage you to get involved and submit your ideas to this publication. Also, if you are interested in attending future EWG meetings contact the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan at: (517) 323-6600 or by email at: [corninfo@micorn.org](mailto:corninfo@micorn.org)

## Educational Campaign

One goal of the EWG is to increase public understanding of ethanol benefits and related issues. After much research, brainstorming, and discussion the EWG has decided to focus its educational efforts on the following groups: students, E-85 and recreational vehicle owners, and agricultural producers. Since education is a strong component of ethanol's success, many organizations will be partnering on the educational efforts. Educational materials are currently being developed to be distributed at the Michigan Ag Expo held July 10-12 in East Lansing.

## Ethanol Promotion

### **E-85 Station Promotion**

E-85 is a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline, which can only be used in E-85 flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs). There are over 75,000 E-85 FFVs in Michigan. An E-85 promotional event was held at the two E-85 refueling sites in Lansing (Don's Windmill Truck Stop and Ball Park Mobil) to get these FFV owners to refuel their vehicles with E-85. Previous to the event, postcards were sent to all Lansing area E-85 FFV owners, notifying them of the event and that their vehicle can run on E-85. During the event approximately 1,100 gallons of free fuel was pumped by CMPM and Ford staff. Vehicle owners were also given ethanol information and frequent fueler cards for use at the stations. "The event was a great success," said Jody E. Pollok, Executive Director of CMPM. "Not many people who own E-85 flexible fuel vehicles are aware their cars can burn this environmentally-friendly fuel." The event was held in cooperation with Ford Motor Company and Growmark. Additional promotional events for other E-85 refueling sites in Michigan are currently being developed.

## Current Fuel Prices in

### Michigan

(as of June 25<sup>th</sup>)

Regular Unleaded  
(average)  
\$1.54

E-85  
(range)  
\$1.38-\$1.99

## **Detroit Grand Prix E-85 Event**

Once again, partnering proves to be successful as CMPM joined with Ford to promote E-85 fuel and FFVs at the Detroit Grand Prix. About one million were in attendance at the Grand Prix. The ethanol booth was located at the entrance to the event, so it was impossible to not hear the ethanol message. Approximately 500 people stopped by the booth to talk about ethanol-blended fuels and get more information. Many were receptive to increasing the use of ethanol fuel, especially E-10 if they didn't own an FFV.

## **Additional Updates**

### **Oxygenate Waiver Denied**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Christie Todd Whitman announced June 12, 2001 that California's oxygenate waiver request would be denied. Whitman added, "Given the legal constraints within the Clean Air Act, EPA cannot approve the State of California's request to waive the federal oxygen content requirement for reformulated gasoline."

"This is a huge win for corn producers-with a magnitude of about 235 million bushels of corn which equates to almost 600 million gallons of ethanol," said Jody Pollok, Executive Director of the Michigan Corn Growers Association. "The EPA ruling opens up several opportunities for ethanol production. In fact, we've already received information regarding an increase in plant capacity. Nationally, 34 out of 56 plants are considering expansion and 10 new plants are currently under construction. This does not include plants that are currently planned but haven't broken ground yet."

### **Ethanol Plant Still on Track for Michigan**

Broin and Associates, Inc. recently announced that they plan to build Michigan's first ethanol plant (Michigan Ethanol LLC) in Caro. Michigan Ethanol, LLC is working to partner with a producer group, Michigan Corn Processors, LLC on the plant. The ethanol plant was originally slated to be in Vassar Township, until the recent announcement that Caro is now the favored location. There are no annual funds in Michigan available for ethanol production, so those involved have worked diligently to get a one time grant included in the budget. Michigan Ethanol, LLC may receive a \$5 million boost for the plant. The appropriation has been included and will now go through both the House and Senate for final approval. Construction of the ethanol production facility is expected to begin this summer.

To the agricultural economy, the new ethanol plant would be a huge boost. The new ethanol production facility will utilize nearly 15 million bushels of corn annually, and raise the price of corn 5 to 10 cents per bushel for a 60-mile radius surrounding the plant. Michigan's 16,000 corn growers produce over 250 million bushels of corn annually. One bushel of corn produces 2.7 gallons of ethanol. Nationally, ethanol production uses 500 million bushels of corn, increasing the annual demand for corn and boosting farm income by \$3 billion.